India's position in global hunger index

†1541. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that India's position with regard to maximum number of hungry people in the world is worse than that of about 25 countries of Africa as per the Global Hunger Index of International Food Policy Research Institute and India ranks at 66th place among the list of 88 countries;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether the public distribution system in India has failed to provide foodgrains to hungry people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to remove starvation during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI)'s Report on Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2008 has ranked India 66th. This is based on 3 factors viz. proportion of undernourished population, prevalence of under-weight in children under-5 years of age and mortality rate among these children.

However, as informed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), there are methodological problems in developing the hunger index.

(c) to (e) In order to improve food security and nutritional status of the people, Government is implementing various schemes. Government allocates foodgrains at subsidized prices to states and UTs under Targeted Public Distribution (TPDS) for 6.52 crore Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya Anna Yojana(AAY) families @ 35kg/family/monih. Allocations for APL category are also made at subsidized prices depending upon their availability in the Central Pool. Presently these allocations range between 10 to 35 kg/month/family in different states & UTs. Government also implements several other welfare schemes for different sections of society like Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS), which aims at improving the nutrition and health status of pre-school children in age group of 0-6 years as also pregnant women and nursing mothers, and mid-day-meal scheme for primary and upper primary school children in government, government-aided and local body schools in the country. Besides, several other schemes such as Annapoorna Scheme, Village Grains Banks Scheme, Emergency Feeding Programme in KBK districts of Orissa, Scheme for supply of foodgrains for hostels and welfare institutions, and Nutritional Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG) are also being implemented by various Central Ministries in partnership with State and UT Governments.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.